

Department of Justice

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KETTERING MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORN

Faces minimum five-year sentence

DAYTON – Donald Witt, age 51, of Kettering, Ohio pled guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of transportation of materials involving the sexual exploitation of a minor. The crime carries a minimum sentence of five years imprisonment and the possibility of 20 years imprisonment.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, announced the plea entered today before Senior United States District Judge Walter H. Rice.

According to a statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, Witt owned a computer and a webcam in March 2004 and would visit Internet chat rooms using the screen name "curiousdaytonman". Witt would chat with others about sexually explicit activities involving children and view images of child pornography. During these Internet conversations, Witt tried to convince others to show children to him over their webcams.

In March 2004, one of Witt's family members was providing child care services from their home. Witt held one of the children, then between three and six months old, up in front of his "webcam," which was connected to the Internet and actively broadcasting, and took off her diaper. Witt then masturbated while broadcasting it over the "webcam" to other unknown individuals watching on their computers.

ICE agents began investigating Witt following a search of the computer of a Texas man arrested for possession of child pornography. Agents arrested Witt at his home on May 4, 2006. He has been in custody since his arrest.

"We will employ every resource available to us to punish those who exploit children," Lockhart said. "Such crimes can scar a child for life."

Lockhart commended ICE agents for their investigation of the case, along with Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Clemmens, who is prosecuting the case.